Indo-US Agreement

2401. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and US have singed an agreement last year-end;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas where special emphasis has been laid;

(d) whether the agreement has made any impact on Indo-US relations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The Agreement between the Governments of India and the United States regarding the surrender of persons to international tribunals was signed on 26 December 2002 in Delhi. The two Governments have agreed not to surrender or transfer each other's citizens to an international tribunal, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both India and the United States are parties, and without the express content of the other Government.

(d) and (e) The bilateral agreement reflects shared perceptions between the two countries regarding the primacy of national judicial processes and institutions over multilateral judicial processes and institutions, and is a step in the common efforts of the two sides to strengthen bilateral relations.

Indo-Us Relations

2402. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary's visit to US in the month of February 2003 has been considered to be a successful one;

(b) if so, to what extent, in spite of differences on various issues, Government are confident of improving the relations with USA; and

(c) whether Pakistan and other countries, have opposed Indo-US joint military exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) The two sides share a political commitment, articulated by Prime Minister and United States President George Bush in November 2001, to complete the process of transforming their bilateral relations and are pursuing broad-based dialogue and cooperation in pursuit of that goal.

(c) Government has seen reports in this regard. Relations between India and the United States, including in the area of defence, are based on shared interests and are not determined by other countries.

Strategic Cooperation Between India and USA

2403. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new era of strategic co-operation between India and USA is on cards in the year 2003;

(b) if so, what are the details of the new strategies that have been set for further expansion of Indo-US relationship;

(c) what are the issues on which both have agreed and have signed agreements;

(d) what are the agreements which have not so far been signed and are with some differences; and

(e) to what extent the US and India's relations have further improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) India and the United States are engaged in an ongoing process of implementing the shared political commitment of the Prime Minister and United States President George Bush to transform their bilateral relations to achieve their many common goals in Asia and beyond.